

**Abstract 612**

**TITLE:** Testing for STDs at a Detoxification Center

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**BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES:** To assess risk behavior, willingness to undergo sexually trans disease (STD) testing, and prevalence of STDs among women in a substance abuse detoxification center in Rhode Island through a pilot project.

**METHODS:** We asked female inpatients of a short-term substance abuse treatment center to a structured interview and to undergo non-invasive STD testing. Ligase chain reaction testing of urine was used for gonorrhea and chlamydia, and the In Pouch<sup>TM</sup> was used for trichomonas.

**RESULTS:** Of 44 women asked to participate in the study, 84% [37] agreed and 82% [36] agreed to be interviewed. Prevalence rates 2.7 % [1/37] for chlamydia, 2.7% [1/37] for gonorrhea, and 22% [8/37] for trichomonas. Half of the women [18/36] identified themselves as injection drug users. The majority of women 69% [25/36] had one or more sexual partners in the past 30 days and did not use a condom. Of these, 52% [13/25] were non-injection drug users, and 48% [12] were injection drug users. Only 53% [19/36] had ever received an HIV test.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Half of the women in this inpatient substance abuse center practice high-risk injection drug use behavior. High-risk sexual behavior is practiced by most of the women regardless of their substance abuse. The prevalence of trichomonas is 22% in this population. Women in a substance center are at high risk for presenting with sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, and they are undergo testing. Targeted risk reduction program should be developed that use the inpatient stay at a detoxification center as an interval to educate, test, and counsel substance abusers about HIV, STDs and viral hepatitis.

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